



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Virginia experienced below normal precipitation and varied temperatures overall in January. The beginning of the month saw well below average temperatures with temperatures increasing significantly in the second week and dropping again near the end of the month. The dry and cold weather has caused stress on pastures and hay supplies. Hay and roughage supplies are mostly short to adequate. Primary activities for the month include equipment maintenance and purchasing seed and fertilizer.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 01/28/18

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	7	22	67	4
Subsoil	14	32	53	1
Hay & Roughage	2	20	74	4

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 01/28/18

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	13	32	47	8
Winter Wheat	-	4	35	50	11
Pasture	6	22	48	22	2
Livestock	2	5	43	46	4

- Represents zero.

Forage Percent Obtained from Pastures	This Month	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%
Feed Obtained from Pastures	12	-	-

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending January 28, 2018

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1, 2017 to date	Jan. 1, 2017 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	56	30	64	22	43	9	0.00	3.13	-2.88	2.04	-0.79
Norfolk	60	35	74	26	48	8	0.00	3.59	-2.59	1.19	-1.94
Richmond	61	34	73	24	48	12	0.00	2.94	-3.06	1.90	-0.97
Roanoke	56	33	64	23	45	9	0.00	2.18	-3.27	1.42	-1.11
Wash/Dulles	55	30	66	19	43	11	0.02	2.40	-3.18	1.63	-0.80

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

We received about 1.25 inches rainfall from 2 events in January. Soil conditions are still dry and creek flow is rather low. Temperatures ranged from a high of 68 to a low of -7 degrees. No significant snowfall to date.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

The first 10 days of January was bitterly cold and dry. A warming trend followed and rainfall January 13 (.66 in) and January 23 (.46 in) and again January 28 helped Rockbridge come close to its long run average precipitation for January. November and December were below average and subsoil moisture levels have not been restored following a dry fall. Forage supplies are generally adequate.

CLARKE/PAGE/SHENANDOAH (Bobby Clark)

Very dry. I am becoming concerned that wells will begin going dry.

AUGUSTA (Matt Booher)

Very dry. Reports of springs, creeks, and wells lower than people can remember.

CAROLINE/KING (Mike Broaddus)

Soil moisture is low due to lack of precipitation.

CHESTERFIELD/GOOCHLAND (Charlotte Maxwell)

January has been a strange weather month for Virginia as a whole. We went from the coldest week since the 1800s to 70 degrees and then back to freezing temperatures.

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Weather conditions have been drier and colder than normal.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

January 2018 continues to be one of the driest on record. Dry, cold weather has pulled down pastures and hay supplies alike. Wind chills have been brutal at times but livestock has fared well for the most part.

GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)

Slow to stagnant growth on wheat seedlings. Ponding from recent heavy storms in fields and drainage areas.

CHESAPEAKE (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

We received a heavy snow 10 to 12 inches early January with bitter cold conditions. Soil moisture is good and more moderate temperatures have returned. Farmers are attending winter production meetings and doing mostly shop work this time of year.